96. Rs. 3,200 under "23—Medical—4—Leprosy relief—Dietary charges"

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)* : I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 3,200 under "23—Medical—4—Leprosy relief—Dietary charges". I request the House may be pleased to sanction the amount.

Demand put and carried

97. Rs. 2,48,080—0—0 under "12—(1) Forests A—1—b"

98. Rs. 1,012—0—0 under "12—(1) Forests B—8—a"

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 2,48,080 under "12—(1) Forests A—1—b" and Rs. 1012 under "12—(1)—A—1—b". These amounts are repuired to pay of the collection charges and dearness allowance to the staff who are engaged in connection with the supply of firewood in the State. The idea of supplying firewood to the municipal towns is not taken up by Government with a view to derive any profit, and the charges levied on the firewood supplied cover only a royalty of Re. 1—8—0 per ton. The rest cost is collection charges and transport. I request the House may be pleased to grant these demands.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)* : May I know whether this amont is wanted to supply firewood to the people in towns? May I know whether any arrangement is made for the supply of firewood in the villages?

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : The question will be considered when a real necessity arises for the supply of firewood to the villagers. As far as the towns are concerned, it is not proposed to meet the whole demand; but if Government hold stocks at specific rates, the black-marketting rates will automatically come down.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulm)* : May I know whether the Government has enquired into the conditions of the price of firewood in smaller towns like Kunnamkulam, Vadakkancheri, etc?

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : Government have not made enquiries into the cost of firewood in those places.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)* : Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether there is any necessity in those towns?

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : The matter if represented, will receive attention.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: What are the collection charges per ton so far as Trichur is concerned.

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : Firewood is delivered in Trichur town at Rs. 14 and deducting the royalty of Re. 1—8—0 the rest goes to the collection and transport charges.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)* : In the notes to the Standing Finance Committee it is mentioned as Rs. 10—8—0 collection charges. If that is true, Rs. 10—8—0 plus Re. 1—8—0 comes to Rs. 12.

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : It requires further handling at the depot.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)* : What would be the average of such contingent expenses per ton?

Mr. S. Venkateswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : It depends upon the number of times the firewood is handled. In Trichur Town it is possible to deliver firewood with one handling if arrangements are made for one lorry. In other cases, the firewood will have to be handled in the depot and ag ain it will have to be handled when re-issued. That will add to the handling charges.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)* : What is the rate at which fire-wood is delivered when an order is made, per lorry ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : Rs. 50 for 3½ tons capacity lorry.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : Will supply be made in full lorries if individuals require the same.

Mr. President : To individuals ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)* : It is now being done in Trichur. Only a very few lorries are available.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Mr. President, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Conservator, on the very helpful promise that he made, the serious difficulty that the villages close to Trichur, like Ramavarmapuram and Vilvattam and other villages suffer for want of fuel, and I would like to impress upon the Hon'ble Member for Forests the necessity for considering that case early and at the earliest moment at least to make it possible that the fuel stocks in the towns are made available to the villages also on payment, whatever may be the cost of transit.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly